fatalities on National Highways and other Roads are as under:—

| Year | National Highways | | Other Roads | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Accidents | Killed | Accidents | Killed |
| 1983. . . . . | 27303 | 5779 | 88007 | 11569 |
| 1984. . . . . | 35135 | 6845 | 91020 | 12477 |
| 1985. . . . . | 21670 | 3976 | 54279 | 7098 |

(b) and (c) In addition to general measures to avoid accidents on all types of roads, measures taken to improve road safety on National Highways are widening of high density corridors, 4-laning, divided carriageways/expressways, segregation of slow traffic, construction of by-passes around major cities, transport Nagar.

**High Cost of Wheel set**

1999. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report of 1985-86 which was published during June this year has contended that the cost of a wheelset manufactured by the Wheel and Axle Plant at Bangalore is more than double the cost of an imported wheelset;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to modernise the Wheel and Exle Plant at Bangalore; and

(d) if so, by when and what other steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of articles manufactured by Wheel and Axle Plant at Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (d) The cost of a wheelset from Wheel and Axle Plant Bangalore was Rs. 27,036.00 in 1985-86. In the same year, the duty inclusive price of an imported wheelset was Rs. 14,500.00. The import prices have been varying from time to time and it is well known that in some countries, the price is not strictly based on cost considerations. The present day import price is Rs. 29,000.00 and the possibility that the earlier import price was merely a supported, "dump" price cannot be ruled out.

Steps have been taken to contain the cost by controlling spoilage that normally takes place in steel foundries, minimising the consumption of various materials optimising production etc. The Plant being highly automated, the number of workers have been kept to the barest minimum. Efforts are being continued to minimise addition inputs and reduce the cost of production by maximising productivity.

(c) No, Sir. Wheel and Axle Plant, Bangalore was commissioned in September 1984 only and is a fairly modern plant.